

1-10-2003

The Hilltop 1-10-2003

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Recommended Citation

Staff, Hilltop, "The Hilltop 1-10-2003" (2003). *The Hilltop: 2000 - 2010*. 99.
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THE HILLTOP

The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

VOLUME 86, NO. 31

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2003

www.thehilltoponline.com

Howard Remembers Brandy Jeffers

Sophomore Student Dies During Finals

By Kerry-Ann Hamilton
Campus Editor

The University community mourns the loss of one of its students, Brandy Jeffers, a sophomore International Business major who died suddenly of natural causes on December 18 in her Meridian Hill Hall dorm room.

Reverend Nathaniel B. Thomas, the Senior Community Director at Meridian Hall, said Jeffers' death was a shock to his staff and the University. Thomas spoke of the deceased student's involvement.

"She was a good student and was also a representative on the Dorm Judiciary," Thomas said. "She was my conscience. Brandy would have gone on to be one of our great leaders."

Ashley Scruggs, a legal communications major, was one of the first persons to realize that Jeffers was not seen in three days.

"I was in the hallway[second floor Meridian Hall] with another friend and we both inquired about Brandy," Scruggs said. "I made a few phone calls and no one had seen Brandy since Sunday."

Scruggs reported to the front desk staff that she was worried her friend was missing. She said that when the resident assistant returned from Jeffers' room and called Rev. Thomas she knew it was serious, but never suspected her friend died.

"No one mentioned death to us. It was when one of the counselors was speaking to



File Photo

Brandy Jeffers, a resident in Meridian, died of a heart attack during finals week.

my mother, that I overheard her saying one of my friends died," Scruggs said.

The sophomore said she spent a lot of time over the Christmas break thinking and crying.

Vivia Armstrong, a sophomore international business major, was a close friend of Jeffers.

Armstrong became friends with the Arkansas native when they lived Tubman Quadrangle in Fall 2001. She described Jeffers as funny, sarcastic, and never afraid to speak her mind.

"We have Business Orientation and Career Counseling together," Armstrong said.

"She would come to visit me in my room and I would often visit her."

Armstrong and Jeffers moved to Meridian Hall last fall where they lived on the second floor.

Between sobs Armstrong said, "I will miss her. I will miss just joking and laughing in the hall. She was there for me in tough times."

See SOPHOMORE page A2



Photo by Harvey Jenkins

Validation Process Runs Smooth

Students wait in line to receive validation stickers Wednesday. Lines were shorter this week than in the past.

Black Face Award Planning in Full Swing

By Tiffany Mitchell
Contributing Writer

The School of Communications Student Council (SOCSC) held the first volunteer interest meeting Wednesday for the third annual Black Face Award. About thirty students came out to hear how they could get involved with the awards.

"The Black Face Award mission is to honor African-American media professionals who have been trailblazers, innovators, entrepreneurs in the media. The executive board also look for individuals who allow students to gain experience in media production," says Nubia Henderson who coordinated the first Black Face Award ceremony.

The previous honorees include Spike Lee and last years show honored Debbie Allen.

"I always enjoy the show, the choreography and acting is always exceptional. I think that they should honor Bill Cosby, he has made many contributions to blacks in the media," say Caroline Dennis, junior music education major.

Currently in its third year the executive board has not yet confirmed an honoree.

It is nothing new that we have not confirmed an honoree yet," says SOCSC president Ashley McFarlin. "The hardest part is trying to slim the selection. We look for those who have made tremendous strides in the [media] industry."

The ceremony was initially to award the honoree during Black History month will, like the previous year, be held later to best prepare for the ceremony. The ceremony is tentatively scheduled to take place March 26 at Cramton Auditorium.

It's a caliber of responsibilities, said McFarlin who notes the disparity that both coordinators and volunteers should be very committed during pre-production.

Students of all majors are encouraged to volunteer. SOC's collaborates with Fine Arts last year helped to develop a creative set design. However, only School of Communication

See BLACKFACE page A2

Students Deployed to War

Are HU Students Prepared to Fight?

By Shenishe L. Kelly
Contributing Writer

Concerns have been raised by the U.S. government in reference to Sadaam Hussein's attempt to build weapons of mass destruction and violate UN resolution.

As a result, U.S. military operations are underway as the U.S. prepares for war with Iraq and troops are being deployed. Meanwhile, concerns are also being raised at Howard about our own students being deployed to fight in the war.

All sorts of questions have been raised with regards to students being sent to fight in the war against Iraq. Is it fair? Are they ready? Should students have to fight? Are students going in under false pretenses?

Regardless of opinions, the reality is that students have already been deployed and are still being deployed to fight in the war against Iraq. As U.S. Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld proceeds with starting diplomacy for an additional 150,000 troops, even more may go.

"There should be exceptions for students in the military and if no one is able to fulfill the job then students should go. It unfair, but a choice I made, I knew the risks," says Cherisse Staten, a junior, Psychology major student. Staten, who leaves on January 17th says she is upset because she wants to finish school then go, but knows there is nothing she can do about it. "Many

See WAR page A2

Second Howard Student in Four Years Named Rhodes Scholar

By Kerry-Ann Hamilton
Campus Editor

"I thank mother for the myriad of sacrifices she made for me. She was selfless and strong," said Marianna Ofosu, a senior selected as a 2003 Rhodes Scholar.

President Swygert applauded Ofosu for her hard work and her accomplishment. "This is a signal moment in our great University," Swygert said.

"Marianna Ofosu's

achievement sends a message that possibility can become a reality."

In a room filled with members of the media and well wishers Ofosu expressed her gratitude to her teachers for their support.

"I want to especially thank the faculty in the classics department," Ofosu said. "Dr. Levine, Dr. Hock, Dr. Fraizer, I thank you."

Ofosu, a classics civilizations major was one of the 32

U.S. students selected and is the second Howard University student to earn this prestigious honor in four years, second to Carla Peterson.

Professor of Classics, Molly Levine, is elated by Ofosu's achievement.

"I am very proud of her. I think she is capable of real change through education," Levine said.

Rudolph Hock, Chair of the Classics department lauded Ofosu for her success and high-

lighted the multi-disciplinary nature of the classics.

"The achievement of Marianna dispels the myth that the study of the classics is irrelevant," Hock said. "The study is by nature inter-disciplinary. In studying the classics we are not just studying antiquity, but we are cultivating and honing critical analytical skills, which can be applied to any endeavor."

At Oxford, Ofosu said, she hopes to study international development.

"I became interested in this field when I worked this summer at the Solidarity Center, which an international extension of the AFL-CIO."

Melody Bockelman, a junior classics major, is a friend of Ofosu.

"Her achievement is an inspiration for minorities especially minority women," Bockelman said. "I am very proud of her."

Ofosu was born in Gdansk, Poland, the daughter of a



Photo courtesy of Howard.edu

Marianna Ofosu, was also a Luard Scholar.

See RHODES page A2

General Elections Staff Working Hard



Photo by Harvey Jenkins

Corey Cunningham (left) and members of his elections staff prepare for spring general elections.

By Amie McLain
Hilltop Staff Writer

It seems like only yesterday campaign teams were swarming dorm halls with brightly colored flyers and door-hangers while at the same time telling Howard voters, "Don't sleep, the Awakening is coming" or that "The choice is C.L.E.A.R." The race for executive positions in the Howard University Student Association and the College of Arts and Sciences consumed most of the Spring 2002 semester.

See ELECTIONS page A2

Spike Lee's '25th Hour' Sheer Brilliance

FILM REVIEW:

By Andrew Beard
The Daily Cougar (U. Houston)

(U-WIRE) HOUSTON - Monty Brogan is in the worst kind of trouble, but he's not being chased and he's already been caught. The DEA busted him on drug trafficking charges, and Marty received a seven-year jail term as a result. Most of his trouble is psychological, and he's trying to sort out his life during one final night of freedom with his two best friends -- Jacob and Francis (Philip Seymour Hoffman and Barry Pepper) -- and girlfriend Naturelle (Rosario Dawson).

Spike Lee is at his best in "25th Hour." It's almost a no-brainer. If you give a brilliant filmmaker like Spike Lee this kind of cast, it's like throwing Sammy Sosa a Jose Lima fastball: you're guaranteed a homer. He gives each character just enough screen time to establish a complex, emotional story line without the story coming across like an after-school special about the dangers of selling drugs.

Brogan begins his night eating an uneasy dinner with his semi-estranged father, played by the overworked character actor Brian Cox. Throughout the conversation, facts about Monty's childhood emerge, including the death of his mother and his

father's drinking problem. It also doesn't take long for Monty's father to start the guilt trip. "You could've been a lawyer, you could've been a doctor, you could've been anything."

But Monty feels differently: "You weren't telling me to go to law school when I was paying your bills."

During this dinner sequence, Lee injects the movie with a large dose of energy in the form of a stirring Edward Norton monologue. As Monty stares into a bathroom mirror, he begins to blame every ethnicity and religion in New York City for his current situation, and it

See 25TH HOUR page A2



CAMPUS

VOICES & VIEWS

*How did
validation go
for you?*



Nicole Harrison
Junior,
International
Business
Onley, VA

"I think that it was
very organized."



Terece Henderson
Junior
Silver Spring, MD
Marketing

"It was a lot easier to
register this semester
in comparison to past
semesters."



Vernon McQueen
Sophomore
Architecture
Harlem, NY

"I think that it ran a lot
smoother than before,
but they need to have
more people actually
working."



Lenny Larergne
Sophomore
Teaneck, NJ
Undecided

"It went alright for
me, I managed to get
into all of my classes."

Compiled by Harvey Jenkins

WAR from A1

members of the military here at Howard say that their friends and families have been very supportive and that makes it easier. "My fraternity brothers of Iota Pi Theta Fraternity, Inc. have been very supportive," said Rubin Ruiz, 27, a teacher at St. Augustus here in DC.

Many students who are being deployed say that they have mixed attitudes about leaving for war. "This was unexpected, I leave this Friday, but I am going in with a positive attitude," said Jason Smeadly, a senior, English major student. Smeadly, a marine says he did not join for the money and this was a decision that came from the heart.

"It will be hard work, but I want the challenge and I am ready," said Ruiz. Ruiz father and uncle were all marines. Ruiz says "marines do it for the brotherhood, not money."

However, assumptions have been made that many students



Jason Smeadly, a senior and marine is being deployed to Iraq.

join the military for the money because they are unable to pay for school or are from the lower class. Ruiz says people who join for money are cowards and are looking for an easy way out.

Ruiz, unlike Stanten and Smeadly does not know if he will be deployed or not as of yet. Although it is indefinite, this weekend he will have anthrax shots receive dessert gear.

ELECTIONS from A1

Well, it's that time of year again. The 2003 General Elections Committee is confident that this spring, however, will be less chaotic than spring 2002 in which Howard students set the record for having the greatest number of elections during a campaign season.

The theme this year is "E.I.C." which serves as an acronym for Education, Involvement, and Change. General Elections Chair, Corey Cunningham, chose the acronym to highlight the three key goals for the campaign season this semester.

"We want to make sure that candidates are educated about what is expected of them if they gain a leadership position and that students are educated about the candidates. Involvement of candidates and volunteers is key as well. And finally, we want to change how students think about elections and Howard politics," said Cunningham.

By implementing new leadership programs and adding more speak-outs, Cunningham, hopes to ensure that Howard's upcoming leaders are prepared for the road ahead and that the student body has ample opportunity to hear from all candidates before casting a vote.

Cunningham has put a few new things in place to ensure that elections run smoother and quicker in comparison to

last spring.

One new regulation that is in effect to prevent recurring elections is the change to the majority rule as stated in the H-book Article I Section 5 Clause C. As a result of the election held in fall of 2002, a candidate only needs to have a higher percentage over another candidate to win the election. Therefore, rather than attaining 51% of the votes to secure victory, a candidate merely needs to acquire more votes than their opponent. For example, candidates on Slate A will win the election if they receive 658 votes and candidates on Slate B receive 657 votes, regardless if Slate A had 51% of the votes.

Another measure to keep problems to a minimum is the establishment of the General Elections Grievance Committee. The primary purpose of this group is to address any concerns involving candidates. Grievance coordinator, Dyonica Brown, asserts that this committee is necessary because of last years' controversy.

"A lot of issues came up during last season and everything got sent to the HUSA policy board instead of a committee," Brown says. "Now, if any candidates have a problem they can file a complaint to me."

In addition, this semester prospective candidates have the option to attend a few informative programs to help them along their journey into "Howard politics." Cameron

Trimble, who holds the new position of Events Coordinator, hopes the programs will give students a heads up about what to expect as a student leader.

"The events that we've planned let students see what they need to know before election time and hopefully they can learn from mistakes made by student leaders in previous years," Trimble remarked.

Sean Parker, a sophomore public relations major and prospective candidate, believes the new programs are a great addendum to the election events.

"They are building awareness for the election process, especially for the freshmen. In addition, there are going to be students in attendance providing input on problems they see and things they want to see done," said Parker.

The General Elections Committee appear to be well on their way to having a successful campaign season, especially with the support of volunteers.

Any students interested in volunteering for the General Elections Committee should contact Dior Richards, Volunteer Coordinator, at 806-4510 or stop by the office in Rm. 116 in the Blackburn University Center.

The General Elections Committee advises prospective candidates to read the H-book, find out which issues are most important to the student body, and talk to current student political leaders.

BLACKFACE from A1

students with a minimum of a 2.8 gpa's. and 24 credits may apply to be coordinators. Transfer students are also eligible to apply.

Coordinator applicants are asked to submit a proposal for whom they think should be awarded of the executive boards nominees and an expense budget (excluding venue) with creative skits and programming for students to showcase.

The budget proposal is not to exceed \$10 thousand, a fifty percent cut from last year's expenditure for Debbie Allen's tribute. This budget cut is due to a decrease in allotment to the School of Communica-

tions.

Last year the set designs were more elaborate, say Henderson who also said that overestimation and spending has been a on going problem for the planning committees.

"We have a budget and although we will consider corporate sponsors, this is still a student council production," Henderson said.

SOCSC will hold auditions for talent. Last year coordinators theatrical production of A Different World showed student's talent and creative program that reflects the work of the honoree.

Any inquiries regarding Black Face Award should be made e-mailed to SOCSC@email.com

SOPHOMORE from A1

Interim Dean of Residence Life, Franklin Chambers, extends his condolences to the family and friends of Jeffers.

"We are saddened that we lost one of our students and more saddened that we lost a student in one of our residence halls," Chambers said. "Miss Jeffers was very active, well respected, and will certainly be missed."

Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel will be hosting a memorial service on Wednesday at noon to celebrate the life of Brandy Jeffers and other members of the University community who died in 2002. The Meridian Hall staff will also be hosting a candle night vigil on

Wednesday night to bring healing to the community.



Photo courtesy of Palisia Stallworth

Brandy Jeffers touched the lives of many in her short tenure at Howard.

RHODES from A1

Polish mother and Ghanian father. She now lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Alex Dixon, a finance major and graduating senior, is also a friend of Ofosu.

"I meet Marianna when she returned from Oxford [University] and I asked how was Oxford and from that point we became acquainted," Dixon said. "Also as president of the School of Business

Honors Program, while Marianna served as Arts and Science Honors Program President we began discussing how we could organize interactions between two organizations."

"I am ecstatic not only for her, but for the University on the whole," Dixon said. "It certainly brings a lot of positive attention to the University."

Ofosu will begin her studies at Oxford University next academic year.

25TH HOUR from A1

closely resembles Norton's work in "American History X."

Monty then meets up with his friends, Jacob and Slaughtery. Jacob is a teacher at a high-class private school and has an unhealthy obsession with one of his students (Anna Paquin). Slaughtery is a fast-talking stockbroker (played expertly by Pepper, who deserves ample credit after stealing the spotlight in all of his scenes). The trio of Jacob, Monty and Slaughtery meet at a club to renew friendships and cut ties. As Jacob puts it, "Monty has three options: he can run away, take the bullet express, or go to prison. Either way, he's gone forever."

Throughout this sequence in the club, Lee brings each character to a breaking point and, ultimately, a decision. The results conclude a fascinating piece of filmmaking. "25th Hour" not only tells a great story, but also paints a beautiful picture of New York City with some of the best cinematography of the year.



Photo courtesy of yahoo/movies.com

Edward Norton has the lead role in 25th Hour.

The only complaint against the film is the performance of Tony Siragusa, the former Baltimore Ravens offensive line-

man. The casting choice resulted in several painful scenes showing "The Goose" trip over the veteran cast with his Ukrainian accent.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

A Smile is Worth a Thousand Words



By Keila Foster
Contributing Writer

"A smile is worth a thousand words," is a common saying that many people heard growing up. This is an underlying message to maintain good oral care.

Oral care is the prevention of oral diseases and the effort to maintain healthy teeth and gums. Judith Neely, a dental hygienist with 22 years of clinical experience and a faculty member at the Howard University School of Dentistry says it is imperative to establish good oral care at an early age.

"I believe students need to focus on overall health, with an emphasis on oral care and take advantage of the facilities available to them while at Howard," Neely said.

Neely added that only a small population of students takes advantage of the free dental care, due to a lack of awareness when they first matriculate at Howard.

"At this point in life, if a student has not had regular oral care, they will not start in college unless they realize there is a [dental] problem," Neely said.

Natasha Henderson, a sophomore nursing major says she learned a long time ago that a diet full of junk food is detrimental to good oral care.

"Many people do not realize that a healthy diet can also bring along healthy teeth and that maintaining good oral care now can prevent bad things from happening to your teeth in the future," Henderson said.

Davin Odia, a candidate for Doctor of Dental Surgery at the Howard University School of Dentistry said that he

knows students are skeptical about attending the dental clinic because they are getting their teeth cleaned by other students. He wants to end rumors about the dental students being inexperienced.

"We follow the guidelines that a regular dentist follows and try our best to explain every step to you as we go," said Odia. While working on a patient, the professor stands behind the dental student and tells them what they are doing right or wrong. Like a regular dentist, Odia can do tasks, which include teeth cleanings, root canals and cavity fillings.

A Howard student who has taken advantage of the clinic is sophomore film major Valerie Colter. She used to believe the rumors about the dental clinic, until her first experience proved to be beneficial.

"The dentists in training do very well and they're thoroughly prepared. Coming from Texas, I am forced to get my teeth cleaned here and it is the same quality of work but done for free," Colter said.

No matter the age, the fundamentals of an award-winning smile are to brush and floss daily, eat healthier foods, and visit a dentist or dental hygienist every six months, as stated by the American Dental Association.

In order to make an appointment with the dental clinic, students must first go to the Student Health Center and obtain a referral, take the referral to the Dental Clinic and set up an appointment.

A New Year, A New You, A New Outlook

By Leesa Davis
Health and Fitness Editor

With the holiday season gone as quick as it came many people have already made their New Years Resolutions and what better way to start the year without pampering your body? Many students have promised themselves to lose weight, tone up, eat healthier or all three.

Simone Scudder, a junior marketing major said in addition to trying to lose weight, she is cutting back on meat. "I'm trying to eat less red meat and pork. It slows you down and it's very heavy on your stomach. I also want to increase my energy level because my past diet always had me feeling tired and drained."

Malektaj Izadi, a dietitian at the Howard University Hospital suggests that people familiarize themselves with the food guide pyramid.

"College students especially should know the basics of the pyramid. Toward the bottom of the pyramid there's starches and toward the top fat and sugar. People probably already know this but just as a reminder, cutting back on fat and sugar is also very important," Izadi said.

Izadi also recommends that students eat more yogurt, fish and chicken. She said that

people usually eat more in the winter time due to the holiday season and the weight slowly comes off as warm weather approaches.

"After the holiday season, people tend to go back to health-

ier eating habits. By the summer time, there is usually a difference in weight."

Keron Mason, a freshman English major said his new year's resolution is to tone up. "More than anything else, I'm trying to get my body toned. I don't want to be buff but I'm tired of people saying I got chicken legs and I'm mad skinny."

Mason said that he has already started to work out and doing push-ups is important to tone your body. "For me, push ups is a good way to start because you feel it in your arms and shoulders when you work out. I also plan on lifting weights and I don't work out for a set time, I just make sure I work out three times a week."

Skakira Waters, a junior marketing major said she is trying to do it all- lose weight, tone up and eat healthier.

"In effort to improve my body I'm trying not to eat past 8 p.m. I want my body to be in the shape that it was in when I was an athlete in high school. I haven't started a work out routine yet but I want to exercise at least three times a week," said Waters.

Deborah Johnson, Associate Chair for the Department of Health, Human Performance and Leisure Studies says people should set short-term goals.

"You can't tone up in two weeks. It takes your body six weeks to respond and notice a difference," said Johnson.



Photo courtesy of www.fitnessday.com

Exercises, such as aerobics, help maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Johnson also suggests walking around a track and doing leg, arm and abdominal exercises. "A good thing to do is walk and count every step for one minute. If you're able to do 140 steps in a minute that means you can walk four miles per hour."

Keeping a calorie count for ten days is also imperative in order to determine your eating habits. It may sound time consuming but if you do this for only ten days you will have an idea of how much calories a day your

body consumes and you can therefore cut back on certain foods. According to Johnson, a 1,200 -calorie diet does not help your body.

Most importantly, the thing with any change is to stay motivated and reward yourself. You don't have to eat salads or fish everyday. Of course you can indulge in chocolate cake and ice cream once in awhile. Too much of anything is not good. So create a new outlook, a new strategy... a new you.

Life As A First Year Medical Student: A New Year... A New Beginning

By Tarik Baret
Contributing Writer

Happy New Year! I don't know about the rest of you but I really enjoyed my holiday break. Although I did not do anything spectacular, I did manage to get some much-needed rest.

I spent quality time with my family for the first time in almost four months. I even got to see my mother (who I don't see often since she moved to North Carolina the summer after my sophomore year of undergrad.)

In retrospect, I probably got too much rest. In light of my last test performance, I really should have studied more over the break, as my quest to pass every exam without the curve has sadly come to an end.

Anatomy is about to be in full swing shortly. We're currently in the midst of arguably the most challenging component of

anatomy, neuro-anatomy. While some of my classmates have debated which block has been most difficult, this block is shaping up to be my most difficult by far. Basically, my workload has doubled. Due to the required amount of time for the additional anatomy lab components, my free time has been cut in half.

Things are going well with my undergraduate mentee. She has attended a lecture, and was even able to come with me to one of my sessions with my preceptor.

Not too long ago, I had the chance to attend a seminar on disparities in health care in this country by an American Medical Student Association (AMSA) representative. The implications of this seminar domestically, and globally as well, has motivated me to become more active and involved in the social education and activism aspects of medicine

(the more I can fit into my schedule, the better).

During a post-holiday outing with my grandmother, I did happen to run into Marie Johnson (or "Mamma" Johnson as she is affectionately referred to), a doctor at Montgomery Mall. Johnson and [NAME] Palmer serve as the coordinators for the Preliminary Academic Reinforcement Program (PARP) in the college of medicine and school of dentistry respectively.

PARP is a six-week program that introduces fundamental concepts of the medical/dental schools curriculum and facilitates the transition to medical/dental schools for selected applicants whose conditional acceptance to Howard University College of Medicine and School of Dentistry is contingent upon the successful completion of the program. PARP, associated with several of the nation's

graduate and professional school programs is funded by the Department of Education.

The academic and tutorial components of the program are conducted by medical school professors, as well as MedStar Leaders (who consist of rising second year medical students whose academic performance during their first year warranted their selection.) Upon completion of our first semester, I truly can appreciate all of the benefits assistance the program afforded me.

Feel free to continue to email me your questions and comments at TBMD2B@aol.com, and I'll continue to respond to them in as timely a manner as possible. Good luck to everyone throughout the semester. I'm not even going to complain anymore, it's rough but... this is the life I chose.

Some Howard Students Ill-Informed about Hepatitis B

By Shari Davis
Contributing Writer

Many Howard students have had the haunting memory of standing in line at the health center waiting for necessary shots to remove medical holds off their account. But do we really know what those shots are and why they are being given?

A key vaccine is the Hepatitis B shots. Students are required to receive the three-shot vaccination over a six-month period and a booster shot every four to five years to keep immunity up.

The first dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine is generally administered shortly after birth. Often, however, many patients do not return for their follow-up shots once the series has begun.

Physicians encourage people to start the series anyway; since even one shot is better than none.

Many Howard students do not realize the importance of this vaccine.

"[Health Services] make us stand in line for hours, to get a shot that we probably don't need," sophomore legal communications major who also recently finished her series of shots, Catharine Jones said.

Before 1982, an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 people in the United States were infected with the Hepatitis B virus, including 20,000 children. An extensive campaign developed to control the Hepatitis B epidemic, resulted in a decline of the infected to an 79,000 in 2001.

According to Lynette

Munday, Associate Director of Howard University's Health Center, fewer cases of the virus are occurring on campus. Munday cites this as a result of laws requiring students to get their vaccination before entering school.

"This has been a great way of controlling the virus," she added.

Hepatitis B is the most widespread liver infection in the world. The virus is transmitted through blood and bodily fluids.

Molli Conti, associate director of the Hepatitis B Foundation in Doylestown, Penn. says this can occur through direct blood-to-blood contact, unprotected sex, receiving a body piercing or tattoo with a contaminated instrument, illicit drug use, and from an infected woman to her newborn during delivery.

According to health officials, the term hepatitis refers to diseases causing liver inflammation. Viruses causing Hepatitis include Hepatitis A, B, C, and E. Each virus has some distinct symptoms, though they share the consequence.

Based on Howard's booklet on STDs, most people who become infected with Hepatitis B recover and some people have it for the rest of their lives. This short infection of Hepatitis B is known as an "acute" case of Hepatitis B.

Approximately ten percent of people infected with Hepatitis B virus develop a chronic, life-long infection. This also depends on the age at which infected by the disease. Newborns have more than a ninety percent chance, children have a fifty percent chance and less

then five percent of adults develop chronic Hepatitis B.

Having chronic Hepatitis B increases risk of developing permanent liver damage, including Cirrhosis (scarring of the liver), and liver cancer.

People who do have Hepatitis B often don't know. Symptoms generally take about one to six months from time of infection. This is mainly why Hepatitis is known as the "Silent Infection." Carriers of the virus don't become noticeably ill and might relate the symptoms to a common cold or flu. Early symptoms include vomiting, loss of appetite, fatigue, and joint and muscle aches. Jaundice a yellowing of the skin and tissue, together with dark urine and light stool, tends to come later as physical

manifestations of the disease.

There is no cure for chronic Hepatitis B, which, unlike acute cases of Hepatitis, requires no treatment other than careful monitoring of the liver. Chronic Hepatitis B subsides after two or three weeks, and the liver general returns back to normal.

For more information on Hepatitis B, there are many support groups and online source to choose from. A health-care provider can answer any questions and set up testing and treatments. Also, state and local health departments, which can be found in the local white pages, can be a great source of information. For a free referral to clinics or low cost services one can call the National STD hotline at 1-800-227-8922.

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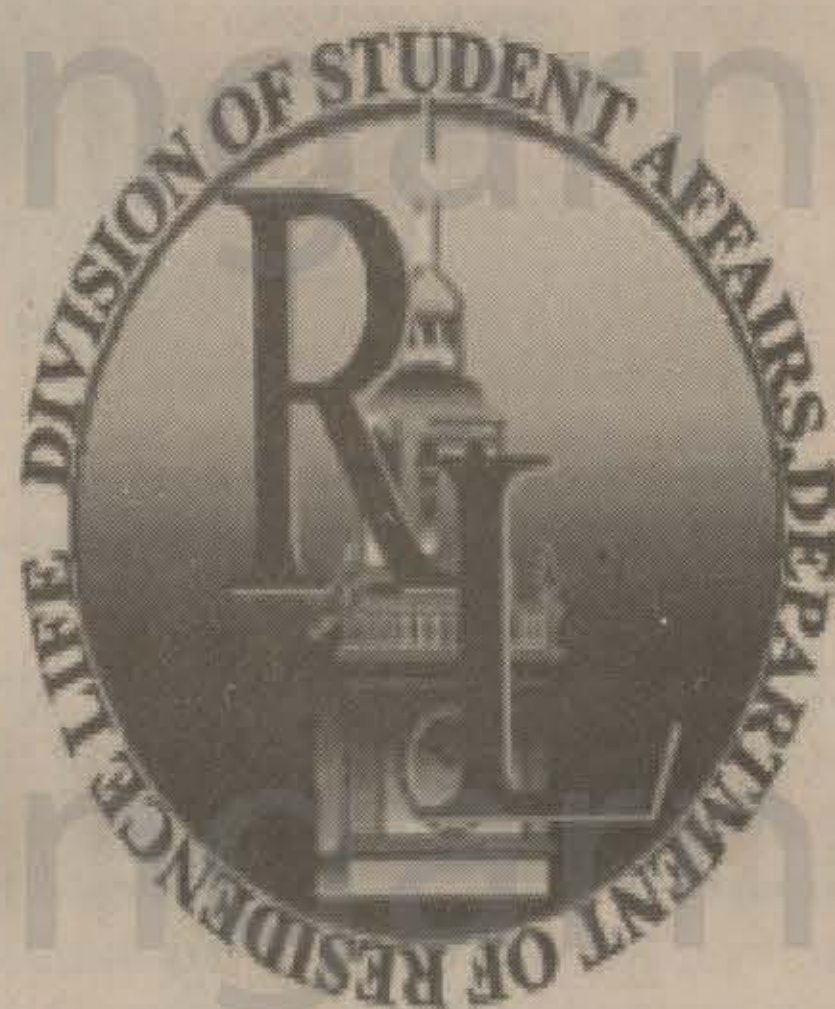
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Retrospect: Top Stories of 2002

A Woman's Place is in the House ... of Representatives

Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) applauds former minority leader Richard Gephardt after being sworn in as House Minority Leader for the 108th Congress at the Capitol January 7, 2003. Pelosi's position is the highest congressional post ever held by a woman.



The Crooked 'E'

In just 15 years, Enron grew from nowhere to be America's seventh largest company, employing 21,000 staff in more than 40 countries.

But the firm's success turned out to have involved an elaborate scam.

Enron lied about its profits and stands accused of a range of shady dealings, including concealing debts so they didn't show up in the company's accounts.

As the depth of the deception unfolded, investors and creditors retreated, forcing the firm into Chapter 11 bankruptcy in December.

More than six months after a criminal inquiry was announced, the guilty parties have still not been brought to justice.



photo courtesy of mtv.com
Jam Master Jay (furthest right) of the rap group Run DMC was shot dead in 2002.



Photo courtesy of mtv.com
Lisa "Lefteye" Lopez of the most successful female group in music history, was killed in a car accident in South America in 2002.

Story of the Year:

'Beltway Snipers'

Thirteen people were killed by gunmen in October. The following is a chronology of the shootings and deaths.



Photo courtesy of cbs.com
Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose headed the group of authorities that brought the sniper suspects.

5:20 p.m. Oct. 2: Window shot out at craft store in Aspen Hill, Md. No one hurt.

* 6:04 p.m. Oct. 2: James D. Martin, 55, of Silver Spring, Md., killed in grocery store parking lot in Wheaton, Md.

* 7:41 a.m. Oct. 3: James L. "Sonny" Buchanan, 39, of Arlington, Va., killed while cutting grass at an auto dealership in White Flint, Md.

* 8:12 a.m. Oct. 3: Taxi driver Prem Kumar Walekar, 54, of Olney, Md., killed at gas station in Rockville, Md.

* 8:37 a.m. Oct. 3: Sarah Ramos, 34, of Silver Spring killed outside post office in Silver Spring.

* 9:58 a.m. Oct. 3: Lori Ann Lewis-Rivera, 25, of Silver Spring slain as she vacuumed her van at gas station in

Kensington, Md.

* 9:15 p.m. Oct. 3: Pascal Charlot, 72, of Washington, D.C., killed while standing on Washington street.

* 2:30 p.m. Oct. 4: 43-year-old woman wounded in craft store parking lot in Fredericksburg, Va.

* 8:09 a.m. Oct. 7: 13-year-old boy wounded as he is dropped off at school in Bowie, Md.

* 8:15 p.m. Oct. 9: Dean Harold Meyers, 53, of Gaithersburg, Md., killed at gas station in Manassas, Va.

* 9:30 a.m. Oct. 11: Kenneth H. Bridges, 53, of Philadelphia killed at gas station in Fredericksburg.

* 9:15 p.m. Oct. 14: Linda Franklin, 47, of Arlington, Va., killed at home improvement store in Falls Church, Va.

* 8 p.m. Oct. 19: 37-year-old man wounded outside steakhouse in Ashland, Va.

* 6 a.m. Oct. 22: Conrad Johnson, 35, fatally wounded on bus in Aspen Hill, Md., dies later at hospital.

News Makers: What's Going On in 2003

Black Civil Rights Activist Succumbs



Photo courtesy of AP

neck and threw him in the Tallahatchie River.

CHICAGO — Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till, died Monday of heart failure. She was 81. Till-Mobley drew national attention in 1955 when she decided to give her son an open-casket funeral despite the gruesome disfigurement and decomposition her son had suffered from a lynching where two white men beat him, tied a cotton gin to his

nationwide have fallen short of their promise.

X Marks the Spot

NEW YORK CITY — Attallah Shabazz, eldest of Malcolm X's six daughters, is pictured sitting beneath a photographic portrait of her late father during a news conference where the Shabazz family announced a long-term deposit of a large collection of Malcolm X's diaries, photos, letters and other materials to the Schomburg center.



Photo courtesy of AP

the crash Wednesday

'Dubya' Debuts Tax Proposal

WASHINGTON — President Bush asked Congress on Tuesday to "push the economy forward" with a \$674 billion plan to abolish federal taxes on stock dividends, speed up promised income tax cuts and send rebate checks to 34 million low- and middle-income parents. Democrats said the lion's share of the package favors the rich, a claim the White House did not dispute.



Photo courtesy of AP

Motor City Preview

DETROIT — Dodge introduced its Tomahawk V-10, 8.3-liter concept motorcycle at the North American International Auto Show. The 'super-bike' features independent four-wheel suspension and an engine borrowed from the Viper sports car which Dodge claims can propel the bike at speeds of nearly 400 mph.



Photo courtesy of AP

Charges Death Penalty as Racially Biased

College Park, MARYLAND — Prosecutors in Maryland are much more likely to seek the death penalty in cases where blacks are accused of killing whites, according to a University of Maryland study released earlier this week. The report also concluded that geography plays a major role in whether a defendant faces a potential death sentence.



Graphic courtesy of AP

Plane Crashes Killing All 21 Aboard

Charlotte, NORTH CAROLINA — A commuter plane taking off in clear weather veered sharply back toward the airport, hit a hangar and crashed in flames, killing all 21 people aboard.

The cause of the nation's first deadly airline accident in more than a year was not immediately clear. Aviation officials said the pilot reported an unspecified emergency to the tower just before

Starving Boys were Sexually Assaulted

Newark, NEW JERSEY — A 7-year-old boy was found dead in a plastic storage bin in a basement Sunday, a day after police found his near-starved brothers in a locked room of the same house, authorities said. Upon further investigation authorities discovered that the boys were sexually assaulted by the boyfriend of the woman who was responsible for the boys' care. The FBI has become involved in the case and hopes to find the woman responsible.

Sources: Reuters, the Associated Press and the Afro-American Reports compiled by Amber N. Mobley



War Could Impede Aid to Iraqis

By Palmer Houchins
(U-WIRE) OXFORD, Miss. - Military and political planners have been making preparations for a possible war with Iraq for some time; however, they are not the only groups busy preparing.

Humanitarian agencies worldwide have been planning for the eventuality of war in Iraq. But, because of the secretive nature of the military's war plans combined with the small humanitarian presence already in Iraq, these groups must explore many unknowns.

"What you do in a country depends on what happens in the country. That makes it difficult because we don't know what the scenario will be," said Jonathan Frerichs of Lutheran World Relief. "There are many humanitarian dimensions to this potential conflict, and many of them are not known."

Sanctions in place by the U.S. Treasury's Offices of Foreign Assets Control currently prohibit non-governmental organizations from working there.

"This is a huge obstacle to preparedness for American humanitarian organizations," said Sandra Mitchell of the International Rescue Committee.

These post-Gulf War sanctions were instituted to limit Iraqi imports and exports and

to induce the country to follow through with what it promised after that war.

"Twelve years ago Iraq maintained a good and rising standard of living, but my experience in Iraq since the Gulf War and the imposition of sanctions has been one of continuous decline in health, nutrition, water supply, education and the overall situation for people in Iraq," said CARE Australia's Robert Yallop, who recently returned from a visit to his organization's mission in Iraq, one of the few currently in existence there.

Mitchell said there are less than a dozen NGOs in Iraq at present. This is a stark difference from America's last military efforts in Afghanistan where a sizeable humanitarian structure was intact years before the military action.

Despite the host of questions surrounding the date, length and magnitude of a military strike in Iraq, some things are certain in the event of war.

The latest United Nations study estimated that nearly 1.5 million Iraqis would flee the country. Another 8 million are projected to be displaced, meaning they would flee their homes if fighting broke out.

Providing aid to these refugees would be a large part of the humanitarian effort in

Iraq, but where these refugees would flee seems to raise another uncertainty.

"In the case of Iraq, if there are large numbers of refugees who leave Baghdad, the question is who is going to receive them. None of the countries around Iraq are in good condition to do that," said Michael Metcalf, director of the Ole Miss Croft Institute for International Studies.

Iraq's neighbors, Turkey and Iran, declared that they would close their borders to Iraqi refugees.

Joel Charny of the advocacy group Refugees International said he believes this will cause "border camps" to spring up all across the Iraqi side of these borders, which will only complicate the humanitarian efforts.

"It's very hard to meet people's needs when they are on the move. Those people would be much safer if they could get into the border countries," Charny said.

War would also collapse the UN's oil-for-food program, which has served the Iraqi people since the Gulf War. It has been the UN's policy to remove its workers in areas of war in the past.

"The United Nations oil-for-food program has improved the situation of chronic malnutrition among

children, but more than 1 million still remain at high risk. Any further conflict could rapidly reverse those gains and deepen the humanitarian crisis, which has been ongoing

the country is an issue most NGOs are requesting the government to grant now.

"We need access and independence to operate free of political motives, as well as a



Photo courtesy of cnn.com
This Iraqi man and others like him may ultimately be the true victims of a US initiated war on Iraq.

since the Gulf War," Yallop said.

Mitchell quoted U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, saying nearly 60 percent of Iraq's 23 million people are dependent upon those government rations. While some families could store enough food for a lengthy military struggle, the fate of many others depends mainly on how long the fighting lasts and how soon aid workers can get in to help.

The rights of humanitarian groups once they get into

legitimate interface with any military that is there," Mitchell said.

Metcalf said cooperation among the various organizations will be vital to the Iraqi people: "Humanitarian association between different groups is going to be required in short term, if not mid-term and even long term."

Interaction, an alliance of over 160 NGOs, recently requested that the UN provide a coordinator for aid efforts in border countries.

"Because of the precarious

threat to a population with a lack of food and humanitarian concerns about the capacity to respond, we've asked for a UN coordinator to work with border countries," Mitchell said.

Mitchell emphasized that in the event of the use of weapons of mass destruction, aid workers could not offer a short-term response because of their lack of training and experience for the conditions that they might encounter.

In the meantime, while the military and governmental unknowns are explored, organizations are doing all that they can to prepare for an event that they are not entirely sure what to expect from.

"We are preparing as best we can but at the same time praying that war will not happen. We are stockpiling and pre-positioning items as close as we can. Most of that is being done in Jordan, the border country with the strongest connection to most humanitarian groups," Frerichs said.

Mitchell's organization also plans to use Jordan as a jumping-off point for efforts in Iraq.

"From the humanitarian perspective, what you have to do right now is get as close as you can and make as many contacts as you can. We just have to do the basic contingency planning," she said.

The Hilltop is looking for people to fill the following positions immediately:

**Copy Chief
Online Editor
Photo Editor**

Special Projects Manager

Copy Chief is responsible for scheduling the copy editors and making sure all copy has been looked over and is free of errors.

Online Editor is responsible for posting The Hilltop to our website on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Photo Editor is responsible for assigning photos, making sure they are developed (includes dropping off and picking up film), scanning and editing the photos for production.

Special Projects Manager is responsible for planning special events, following up on grant proposals and fundraising.

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200 Meters & 400 Meters
- Erica Day
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200M, Terrapin Invitational
Long Jump - LaClaire Carter
CONGRATULATIONS, 2nd Place
Terrapin Invitational

60 Meter - Phakiso Collins
3000 Meters - Indira Garcia
- Alicia Melton
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Bison in the Holy Land

Conflict in Middle East Put into Perspective After Visit Peace Process Going Nowhere-- Fast

ANALYSIS

By Lauren Bayne Anderson
Editor-in-Chief

After traveling Israel for eight days, something became very clear to me: although they both claim to, neither the Palestinians nor the Israelis truly want peace.

A war that started nearly 2000 years ago continues today in the Holy Land and surrounding areas.

While the fight may have started with tales of slavery, progressed to arguments over land and continued over disputes on allowing refugees to return, there is one real reason the two groups fight today: neither side will put themselves in the shoes of the other.

And until this is accomplished, the war will rage on.

The most recent history of the conflict can be traced to the late 1940s.

After the death of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust, Zionism—the idea that Jews are entitled to a homeland in the land of Israel—became popular. Since the death of Jesus, Jews were driven from country to country.

The Holocaust was just the latest example of anti-Semitism and Jews felt that without the creation of their own country, they would be wiped out.

The creation of Israel was supported by the United Nations. And in 1948, Israel was established.

Jews celebrated their independence in the streets, knowing that there would be rough times ahead. The next day war broke out between Israel and seven Islamic countries.

While the war ended a year later with a cease-fire, the fighting never really stopped.

The problem with the newly established country was not the creation of a Jewish state, but the fact that people were already living on the land.

But problems with a peace movement come from both sides. The issues are simple but hard to change.

The Israelis must really understand why the Palestinians feel they are entitled to the land and find another solution to the containment of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (the territories) as well as iron out internal problems



Image courtesy of i.timeinc.net

While there is some violence in the major cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, among other places, most of the violence takes place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (highlighted in orange). These areas are populated with Palestinians and a number of Jewish settlements. Israel is about the size of New Jersey.

(such as whether there should be separation of church and state in Israel).

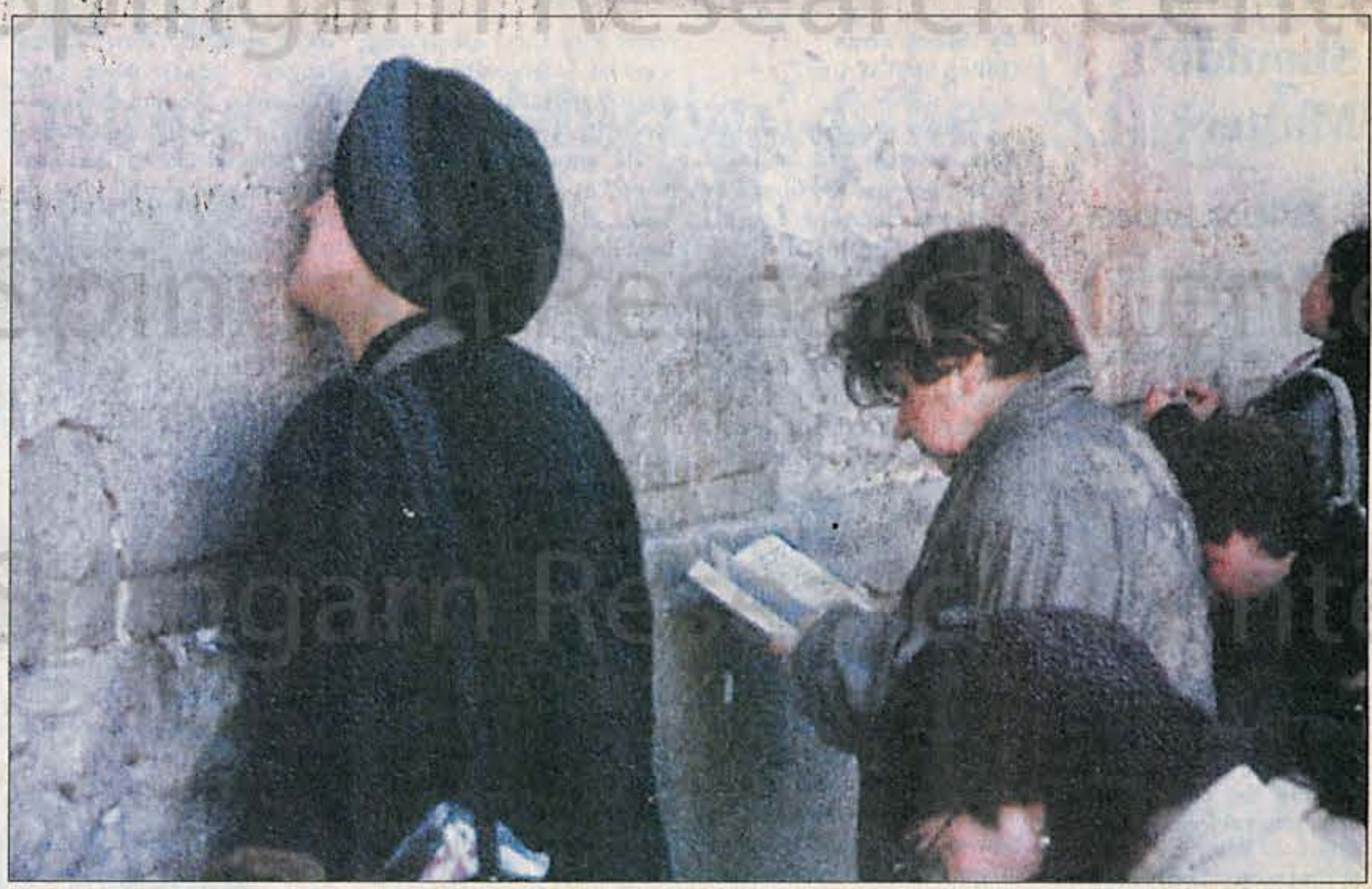
The Palestinians need a new leader—one who teaches tolerance. They need also to recognize that the Jews have a stake in the land both groups consider holy and to use peace rather than terror to make their points heard.

Both sides need to stop responding to one horrible tactic with another.

The latest point of contention was the Camp David talks in 2000. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat came close to a peace agreement but fell short.

While Israel is said to

See ISRAEL page B7



All Photos by Lauren Bayne Anderson

Women pray at the Western "Wailing" Wall, located in the Old City of Jerusalem. The wall is considered the holiest place for Jews. After they pray, some write wishes on pieces of paper and stick them into cracks in the wall. Jews believe when the Messiah comes, he will grant the wishes.



An Israeli soldier looks through a telescope into a Syrian military base, located on the Israel/Syria border. Soldiers on both sides keep watch around the clock and constantly record the other's movements. In Israel, all men and women are drafted into the military at the age of 18. Men are required to serve an average of three years and women serve roughly two. Israel shares borders with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt.



Ana Kazachkov, a Russian immigrant to Israel, shows pictures of her daughter Anya, who was killed in a 2001 suicide bombing at a night-club in Tel Aviv. Anya was 16 years old.



Posters on a Jerusalem street urge Israelis not to make peace with those who have "bloodied their hands." The posters were left by an Israeli extremist political group who was barred from running in political races because of its racist message.



Israeli cars pass through a "check point" leaving the West Bank. Most Palestinians are not permitted to leave the West Bank or Gaza Strip ("the territories"), because of "security reasons." Some have compared the detainment of the Palestinians in the territories to Apartheid in South Africa. On average, one armed Palestinian extremist is caught each day attempting to leave the territories.



Rema Hammami, a Palestinian professor, explains why Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, turned down Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon's peace offer at the 2000 Camp David talks. While about 80 percent of the Gaza Strip and West Bank territories were offered, "We were expected to wash our hands of certain areas and the 'right to return' (the right of Palestinian refugees to return to the land)," Hammami said. After the failure of the talks, began the slew of suicide bombings and violence (Intifada) that continues today. Most Palestinians and Israelis polled, say they believe in dividing the land in a "two state solution" in order to bring peace.

Life & Style

Why the Grammy's Shouldn't Matter

Editor's Column

By Jozen Cummings

This past Tuesday the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences announced their nominations for the 45th annual Grammy awards, which will be aired on Sunday, February 23rd. The prestigious award, which is given to the supposed "best" artists and works in the recording industry for the year of October, 1, 2001 to September, 30, 2002, has been heralded as the premier award ceremony of its kind. Since its inception, the Grammy has been bestowed upon musical legends such as Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen and Michael Jackson.

But as the music industry becomes more and more predictable, so have the awards. Once again, Eminem's "The Eminem Show," has been nominated for Album of the year, a feat he achieved with 2000's "Marshall Mathers LP," which at the time was the first hip-hop album ever to be nominated. So with this and a slew of other nominees that are questionable, their will naturally be a predictable amount of criticism for those who have been nominated and those who will end up winning.

But why should it matter? In recent years, the Grammy awards have been viewed by many as a popularity contest, which is why those who want to bash the Grammy's shouldn't even entertain the thought of doing so again.

I don't care what your cup of tea is when it comes to music, the fact of the matter is the Grammy's shouldn't matter to anyone, like the HUSA elections, the Grammy's are a popularity contest. It's not about whose record is better to the ears, it's about whose record is better on the charts.

But let's take a look at some past award winners, and events that have brought me to this point. The point where I watch the Grammy's like I watch wrestling, to be entertained not to be enlightened.

Marvin Gaye: 1982 was the year Gaye was finally recognized by the Grammy's. His song "Sexual Healing" was awarded two Grammy's for Best R&B Instrumental Performance, and Best R&B Vocal Performance. Now, there's no denying that he was deserving of the award, but look how many years it took for him to be recognized. This was the same man, who wrote the opus "What's Going On" and other classics such as "Let's Get it On." Albums of these magnitudes should have been recognized, but they weren't. It took the poppy feel of "Sexual Healing" to get him an award, as well as his lone performance on the show that year.

Patti Labelle: I'll tell you why this woman deserves another award. This year, the committee nominated Nelly and Kelly Rowland's hit "Dilemma" for Record of the Year, yet the song they sampled was her song. Not only that, but "Love Need and Want You," the title of the

See GRAMMY B7

Ray Liotta: The Movie Star Without a Name

By Enoch Tims
Hilltop Staff Writer

You've probably seen his work, whether you realize it or not, because the films Ray Liotta has made are of such a variety and quality that they have bled into the popular culture around the globe.

What began as a small part on the popular daytime soap opera, "Another World," has ballooned into a legacy that boasts such memorable films as Scorsese's mafia hit, "Goodfellas," Robinson's baseball movie, "Field of Dreams," and sequel to "The Silence of the Lambs," "Hannibal."

Anyone with such a versatile body of work is bound to have an influence on America's younger generations, and this actor is only beginning to realize exactly how much. "I think I was in Miami, when a friend told me that some of my lines from Goodfellas were on some rapper's [Jay-Z] CD," Liotta said. "It is always nice when you find out that someone appreciates your work."

Perhaps it is Liotta's humility that keeps him from seeing the true extent of his influence. Many music videos, films, and, now, the video game "Grand Theft

Auto: Vice City" are finding ways to incorporate Liotta's work and talent into their creativity.

"I am continually surprised at how much people have enjoyed my work," Liotta said. "I can only hope that they will appreciate my future projects."

Liotta's latest feature, "Narc," is a cop drama that has the distinction of being the first film to be released by Tiara Blu Films, the production company founded by Liotta, Michelle Grace, and Diane Nabatoff. According to Liotta, the minute the script for the film crossed his desk, he recognized it as the perfect film to launch the production company.

"The script was so smartly written, the story is so solid, and Joe [Carnahan, the film's writer and director] has so much passion for the film that Michelle, Diane, and I thought it was a great way to start off Tiara Blu," says Liotta. "Joe's got a great future in filmmaking and, we were glad to come aboard and help him realize his dream."

Nonetheless, Narc would prove to be a dream that would be infinitely more difficult to realize. "It's funny that this movie is getting so

much attention, now," Liotta laughs. "Back when [Joe Carnahan, the film's director and I] were making it, everyday seemed like the last—we thought we would lose all funding."

In fact, a few weeks into production a few banks pulled out of their loans and funding for "Narc" dried up and Liotta and crew were forced to find for backers for the film. "I think we ended up with 20 producers, including me," Liotta explains. "At one point, while getting all of these backers, Michael [Douglas] told me to simply walk away; things had gotten that bad."

However, Liotta and Carnahan's persistence paid off in the end, especially when the film crossed the desk of Paula Wagner, producing partner of Tom Cruise. "Those two definitely helped out a lot; I don't know if this all would have worked out as well without them."

Fast forward a few months, and "Narc" has become Hollywood's next big thing. The film has made its debut at the Sundance Film Festival, and though it did not win any awards, critics are saying that the film brings to mind such past great films such as "The



Photo courtesy of yahoo/movies.com

Ray Liotta has played a variety of roles during his career.

French Connection" and likening the director to great filmmakers such as Sidney Lumet.

"It definitely deserves it,

Liotta said. "We wanted to make a great film and we've done it, and you can take that to the bank!"

'Narc' Worth the Time

By Enoch Tims
Hilltop Staff Writer

From the first scene of Narc, the new police drama starring Ray Liotta and Jason Patric, the viewer is hypnotized by the gritty realism of the action—not that most viewers, including this reviewer, have much narcotics experience with which to compare this movie to.

In homage to such classic films as "The French Connection" and "Serpico," writer/director Joe Carnahan's "Narc" explores the dark underbelly of the drug world with a compelling story about the intense psyche behind those individuals called "narcs," undercover officers who put themselves on the front lines of the war against drugs.

"Narc" tells the story of suspended undercover narcotics officer, Nick Tellis (Jason Patric), who is reluctantly drawn back onto the force to find the truth behind the murder of a young police officer killed in the line of duty. He is teamed with Henry Oak (Ray Liotta), the slain officer's partner, a rogue cop who will stop at nothing to avenge his friend's death.

As Tellis and Oak unravel the case, the dark underbelly of the narcotics world reveals itself in surprising ways that are more twisted than either officer has seen before...and the mystery that slowly reveals itself threatens to destroy them both.

It is in no way easy to make a police drama, especially when the media seems oversaturated with the genre. However, Carnahan finds a way to engrave even the most jaded moviegoer into his film. The acting is exceptional. Liotta, Patric, and even Busta Rhymes give great performances which add a depth and



Photo courtesy of yahoo/movies.com

Ray Liotta plays a cop in the police drama "Narc."

personality to the film that might otherwise have been greatly missed.

Primarily filmed with a digital hand-held camera, Carnahan and director of photography, Alex Napomniashy, provide the audience with a point of view that seems to place the viewer right in the middle of the bullets, blood, drugs, and bone fragments.

Even the soundtrack provided by Cliff Martinez and sound editor, Jake Eberle accentuates the "grittiness" of the action, complete with pronounced squishes, howls, and violins.

The only misstep, and I may be broadcasting my own ignorance when I say this, is that Carnahan gives the audience too much credit.

Certain plot twists are developed without the audience. Sure, the clues are there, but one would have to have the talents of Sherlock Holmes to catch Carnahan's "elementary" foreshadowing.

Nevertheless, this fact is easily overlooked and the movie will entertain, and there is no doubt that Carnahan's next film will be eagerly anticipated.

Cody Chesnutt: Not Your Typical Rock Star

By Ryan Dombal
Daily Northwestern

(U-WIRE) EVANSTON, Ill. - Cody Chesnutt seems like the type of guy who needs to be on the move at all times. He's the guy who can't help but constantly change the radio station in his car, desperately trying to find something worth listening to. Ample evidence of his mercurial nature can be found on his pleasingly schizophrenic debut double-album, ambitiously titled "The Headphone Masterpiece."

The album is a thoroughly eclectic affair that never gets boring. Whether he's playing reggae, '60s-style pop, lo-fi indie-rock, Motown-flavored doo-wop, Southern-fried hip-hop, gritty R&B or even folk, Chesnutt, with his sweet, soulful voice, consistently excels and often amazes. Listening to "The Headphone Masterpiece" is just like flipping the stations on a radio dial but, instead of an endless stream of mind-numbing rubbish, each different frequency is playing exactly what you want to hear.

"Songwriters are just music lovers, and true music lovers don't want to hear the same song over and over," said the soft-spoken Chesnutt, 32, in a recent phone interview. "Music shouldn't be an assembly line. Being prolific is a blessing but your true objective is to let each piece have its own life. Repeating the same thing has no value."

The album is lyrically diverse as well. On the poppy ode to infidelity, "The Seed," Chesnutt deadpans the racy chorus, "Push my seed in her

bush for life / It's gonna work because I'm pushing it right / If Mary dropped a baby girl tonight / I would name it rock 'n' roll." But, on the 45-second Motown-inflected gem "The Most Beautiful Shame," Chesnutt turns into a lovelorn Romeo as he croons, "A piece of my heart would me missing / If you let my kissing stop / It would be the most beautiful shame / If our beauty didn't stay the same."

"The personality is an amalgam of things," said Chesnutt, explaining the pimp/lover dichotomy of his words. "We're very complex individuals and because we're all exposed to the same worldly things, we can relate."

On the slow-burning hip-hop/soul anthem "Serve This Royalty," the singer's vocals slither around a horn-laden beat. "Platinum chains and rings is all a brother knows now / Girl you're one of the first to know that gold is back in town / So you gotta serve this royalty," he sings.

"There are many levels to that song," Chesnutt said of "Serve This Royalty." "It speaks to how the survival of the African man has hustled the street and tried to find out a way out of the box and it speaks to the creator — if you want to get what you want, you have to serve a higher power. Even the pimp game on the street, as screwed up and twisted as it is, is a survival system that allows one to eat and dress and have a sense of independence."

"Unfortunately, hustling

See STAR page B7

15th Anniversary of the Annual Choral Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Co-Music Directors

Arphelius Paul Gatling and Dr. Barbara W. Baker

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NFL Playoff Picture in Focus

Bison Briefs

MEAC Sports

Men's basketball

S. Carolina St. 67
Coppin State 54

Deleware St. 70
Bethune Cookman 47

Morgan State 87
N. Carolina A&T 68

Norfolk St. 78
Md. Eastern Shore 51

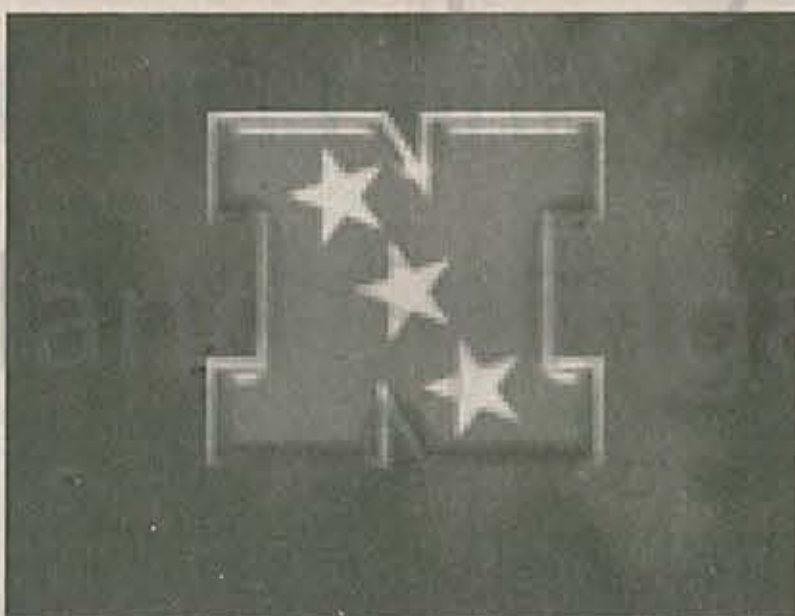
Hampton 80
Howard 75

Women's Basketball

S. Carolina St. 74
Coppin State 49

Deleware St. 67
Bethune Cookman 49

Norfolk St. 93
Md. Eastern Shore 83



By Soraya McDonald
Contributing Writer

To the delight of football fans everywhere, the NFL playoffs have arrived. And with it comes eight talented teams who are all hungry and jumping at the chance to play in Super Bowl XXXVII on January 26, 2003 in San Diego, California.

THE NFC

Atlanta Falcons
vs.
Philadelphia Eagles

All eyes will be on two of the most explosive quarterbacks in the league: first year Falcons' starter Michael Vick and the Eagles' reactivated Donovan McNabb will face off tomorrow afternoon at Veterans Stadium.

Many thought that Philadelphia's playoff hopes would dissolve after McNabb broke his ankle against the Arizona Cardinals in November.

Yet, the team was able to muscle its way to the top of the NFC East with a 5-1 record led by Koy Detmer and A.J. Feeley. If there's a quarterback who presents a challenge to Donovan McNabb, it is Michael Vick.

The 2001 number one draft pick from Virginia Tech

has been a thorn in the side of many NFL defensive coordinators because of his quick running and extensive passing ability.

After starting the regular season with two losses to Green Bay and Chicago, Atlanta's impressive offense started to come alive with the help of running backs Warrick Dunn and T.J. Duckett. They proved to be effective offensive weapons against Falcons opponents. The only exception exception-Tampa Bay, who they lost to in Atlanta and in Florida.

While the Falcons won the NFC wildcard and earned a playoff berth after running though Green Bay at Lambeau Field 27-7. They will be facing an uphill battle tomorrow against an Eagles defense that bears much resemblance to that of the Buccaneers. The game will air Saturday, January 11, at 8:00pm on FOX.

Tampa Bay
Buccaneers
vs.
San Francisco 49ers

The Tampa Bay Buccaneer, a defensive powerhouse, have done well with their first season head coach John Gruden. They will be looking to crush the hopes of the San Francisco 49ers Sunday in Raymond James Stadium.

Tampa Bay not only boasts the league's number one ranked defense, but also lays claim to linebacker Derrick Brooks, 2002 Defensive Player of the Year. The Saints posed the largest threat to the Bucs during the regular season by beating them both at home and on the road. Their other two losses came at the hands of two current playoff teams-Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. It will be up to Warren Sapp, Brian Kelly, Simeon Rice and the rest of the Tampa Bay defense to shut down Terrell Owens and his post-touch-down antics. And quarterback Brad Johnson, ranked third in all-time completion percentage behind Steve Young and Joe Montana, will be instrumental in putting points on the board for the team.

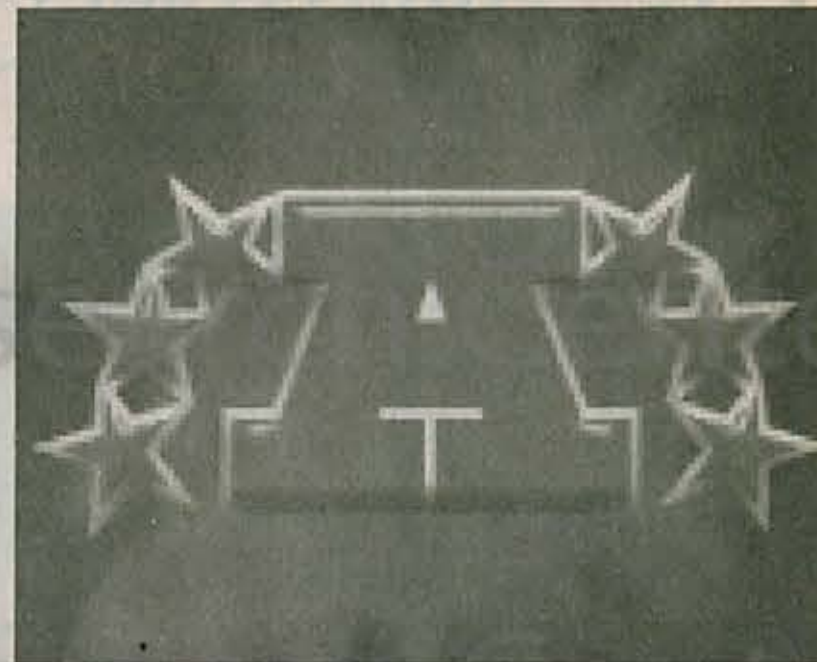
Led by quarterback Jeff Garcia, the 49ers have been propelled forward by performances from Terrell Owens. The overcame a 24-point deficit to be the Giants, the second greatest comeback in NFL history.

While their regular season proved to be full of inconsistencies- San Francisco dropped six, including two to the Rams and the Chargers. There is no doubt that the team will come out ready to win after their game against the Giants. The game will air Sunday, January 8, at 1:00 pm on FOX.

THE AFC

Oakland Raiders
vs.
New York Jets

At thirty-seven, Rich Gannon has proved that he is still an effective quarterback. Leading an offense that's ranked second to none, he helped them claim their third straight AFC Western Division title.



When the 2002 league MVP joined the Raiders, they wanted him to be a defensive back. Yet, Gannon, as a quarterback, set an NFL record for attempts in a season, with 418. Jets quarterback Chad Pennington, led the league with a passer rating of 104.2 and a completion percentage of 68.9. Gannon was second in both categories with 97.3 and 67.6 respectively.

The Raiders, 11-5 during the regular season, lose the first four games of the season and snapped it in Denver winning 34-10. The Jets, who swept the Colts in their wildcard match-up, 41-0, had a four-game losing streak of their own that came after their first regular season game.

In the past four weeks, however, the Jets have averaged 137 yards rushing per game with the help of its powerful offensive line. Running-back Curtis Martin was able to make huge play from scrimmage. The Jets have a fighting chance if they can uphold their success with the running game; its deficiencies and almost complete absence was what led to a loss against the Raiders in December. The Raiders held the Jets to just 32 yards rushing in their last meeting. Look for the match-up Sunday January 8, at 4:30pm on CBS.

Pittsburgh Steelers
vs.
Tennessee Titans

The last time the Steelers and the Titans met at The Coliseum, Steelers quarterback Tommy Maddox sustained spinal cord and cerebral concussions that left him paralyzed for 20 minutes and on the bench for three weeks. Tomorrow, he'll be leading the Steelers in a game. The Titans defense has guaranteed to be physical against wide receivers Hines Ward and Antwaan Randle El. Titans quarterback Steve McNair has dealt with his own physical problems concerning his ribs and back but isn't too hurt not to play tomorrow.

Tennessee clinched their division title with wins at home and away over the Colts, who were tied with them for first place. The Steelers rallied to score 22 points against the Cleveland Browns in the fourth quarter during a furious comeback to advance to playoffs. They face Tennessee Saturday, January 11, at 4:30pm on CBS.

Sources for info:
ESPN.com, NFL.com,
Superbowl.com

Bison go the Distance at Maryland Invitational

By Melanie Clarke
Contributing Writer

Howard's striders made a strong showing this past weekend at the Maryland Invitational in Landover. Competing against Howard were MEAC opponents Coppin State, Morgan State, Bowie State, Hampton and UMES; also running was the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University,

UMBC, and a host of other local and Mid-Atlantic teams.

"I just wanted to see where we were before getting into our bigger meets," said Head Coach Michael Merritt, "and getting ready for the conference championship."

Five runners and one long jumper put in performances that earned them spots at the MEAC Conference Championship in February.

"We're just going to use

this meet for the other big meets," said Merritt, "This will really test us."

Newcomer Vaun Cleveland sprinted the 60-meter dash in 6.88 seconds and became the first member of the men's team to qualify. Newcomers on the women's team made impressive statements as well with their qualifying numbers.

LaClaire Carter launched 5.73 meters, 17.42 feet, to

qualify in the long jump and in the 3000 meter run, Indira Garcia and Tasha Harris ran an 11:11.38 and 11:29.41 respectively. A surprise performance came from Alicia Melton who ran 11:25.70.

Merritt is coaching both the men's and women's teams after Coach Shivers-Cole departed at the end of last season due to relocation. "The teams are looking very promising," he added, "I felt

they ran very competitive despite going home for the break."

Merritt noticed an improvement in his athlete's performances from last year's indoor conference meet where he said they got "a wake-up call." He added that they decided to get serious about training by going into the weight room and working harder. The result has been improved perform-

ances like the one they displayed in Landover.

Merritt mentioned the development of the relay squads on both sides and commented, "I've seen a vast improvement with the men's team. We're looking at having a very strong 4x400, 4x800 and distance medley. We're pretty deep."

Howard's next meet will be at Penn State on Saturday, January 18th.

Lady Bison Get 1st Win Against Norfolk State University

By Terez Paylor
Contributing Writer

Before Wednesday's night game against Norfolk State's Lady Spartans, Howard's Lady Bison were saddled with an 0-10 overall record and an 0-1 MEAC record. After the game, they finally had a notch in the win column and a great feeling of relief.

Simone Agee and Asia Petty were instrumental in leading the Lady Bison to an 81-74 win in front of a home

crowd of 1,201. Agee scored 17 points and grabbed 6 rebounds and Petty finished with 17 points, 11 rebounds, and 1 assist shy of a triple double. Norfolk State's forward Renata Phillips scored 14 points and secured 15 rebounds in a losing effort.

Howard led Norfolk State 43-34 at the half with help from the backcourt trio of Petty, Agee and Daisha Hicks; they combined for 27 of the Lady Bison's 43 first half points. After the half, Howard stayed in control and led 61-54

with 9:28 left in the game. That's when Norfolk State's point guard Shenae Johnson decided to take matters into her own hands. Johnson, who finished with 21 points, was on a hot streak and hit a three pointer, a jumper and four free throws in three and a half minutes to put the Lady Spartans up 67-65. Danie Shelton and Shauna Ruglass split a pair of free throws to tie the score at 67-67. Petty and Agee regained control and went on to score Howard's next 9 points giving the Lady Bison a 76-72 lead

with 2:13 left to play. A jumper by Daisha Hicks, who scored 11 points on the night, and two clutch free throws from Courtney Kirk iced the game for the Lady Bison. The Lady Bison maintained an 80-74 lead with 33 seconds remaining. Kirk, a member of the pre-season All-MEAC team, was held to 3 points in just seven minutes during the first half. However, she responded nicely and scored the first 9 points in the second half and finished with 14 points.

The win was invigorating

for both the players and the coaches.

"I'm really pleased with my club today for getting the monkey off our back," said Coach Cathy Parson. "I just feel very gracious and honored that our club stayed together in unity and showed the love we have among us. I don't feel like we always show it, but I think it was shown tonight."

Kirk agreed. "Oh, this was a big win because we feel like we got over this hurdle and we're ready for some more. We're ready to compete," said Kirk.

"We're tired of losing games we shouldn't be losing," commented Petty. "It was time for a change a long time ago and we made it today."

Neither team shot extremely well. Norfolk State shot 37% from the field, including a dreadful 3 for 18 performance from three-point land. Howard shot only 35% from the floor, but was more respectable from long-range, going 5 for 16 from three-point land.

Their next home game will be on January 18th against South Carolina State.



SPORTS

Howard Falls to Hampton in Conference Opener

By Thomas Savage Jr.
Sports Editor

Fans packed Burr gymnasium as Howard opened its conference schedule against Hampton, a rematch of last seasons MEAC championship. The Bison came off a loss to the College of Charleston and looked forward to starting the year with a win against Hampton, this year's favorite to win the MEAC championship. And Hampton entered losing three of their last four.

The Howard's bench looked different than it did their last home game against St. Francis of New York. With the loss of three players, freshman Louis Ford, junior Hekima Jackson (both are in the middle of a suspension for violation of team rules), and junior Bilal Russell (who is sidelined for an undetermined period of time because of medical problems), the Bison entered with a shortened roster. They knew that extended minutes would be expected from their impact players and the others on the bench had to step up.

Having no other

guards to help them, Kyle Williams and Ron Williamson, played a total of 78 out of 80 possible minutes.

"We knew coming into the game that we would have to play for most of the game", said Kyle Williams (23 points), who was named MEAC preseason player of the year. "We had to know how to pace ourselves so that we could last to the end."

The depth of the Hampton bench proved to be too much for the shorthanded Bison. Hampton was able to get a total of 88 minutes from its bench compared to 29 minutes given contributed by Howard's bench. Hampton's bench also outscored Howard's 35-14.

"We wanted to keep pushing the ball late in the game," said Hampton coach Bobby Collins. "Howard just got tired down the stretch."

The Bison entered the second half trailing by 6 and began to let the game slip away. Hampton went 22-5 run early in the second half, and looked to pull away with 64-47 lead.

"We came out a little flat and it took us a while to get our rhythm together",

said Qadir Habeeb. "We knew that we had to settle down and play our type of game"

The Bison seemed to awake from an on-court hibernation as they went on their own run. They outscored Hampton 16-2 and narrowed the margin to 66-63.

"We wanted to get off and running with the ball", said Ron Williamson (11 points and 3 assists). "We knew that if we could get something going we could get the crowd back in the game and have a chance to come back."

As the Bison fought back, Hampton seemed to have the right response to every Howard attack. A key three by Mackel Purvis of Hampton (16 points) and good ball control allowed Hampton to secure the lead and start off their conference schedule with an 80-75 victory.

"Our bench is one of our strongest assets and we knew that we would have to go to the bench in order to come away with a victory", said Coach Collins of Hampton. "This was a game that we knew had to be one."



File Photo

Saya Aluko charges through a would-be defender.

Lady Bison Fall to the Hampton Pirates

By Chauna Bryant
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Howard University Lady Bison lost their conference season opener to rival Hampton University 81-77, in what Bison Head Coach, Cathy Parson, called, "... the worse loss suffered by the Lady Bison to date".

For The Lady Bison (0-10 overall and 0-2 in the MEAC) this was their first lost at home to Hampton in seven years. The Hampton Pirates are now 4-7 in Burr Gymnasium.

"It is good to win," said Hampton Pirates Head Coach Patricia Cage Bibbs. "To come into this house and try to take a win out it is just real tough, but I knew we could do it."

Hampton guards Bianca Johnson and LaShondra Dixon combined for 12 points during the first ten minutes of the first half, allowing the Pirates to take an 18 point lead. The Pirates dominated the rest of the half and went into the locker room leading 44-33.

The Pirates and Lady Bison both started the second half strong. However, with twelve minutes left in the game the Lady Bison were able to maintain their strength and began to chip away at the Pirates lead. With a little over seven minutes left in the game junior guard Simone Agee gave the Lady Bison their first lead with two timely free throws.

During the last seven minutes, the lead changed six times and the score was tied 4 times.

In the last nail biting forty seconds of the game, the Lady Bison were plagued by a series missed lay-ups, turnovers, and fouls which brought the game down to the wire. The game was placed on the shoulders of Hampton's junior forward Nicole Bratwaite and she delivered. Bratwaite buried four free throws sealing the fate of the Lady Bison.



File Photo

Daisha Hicks eyes a jumper.

Bibbs said she remained confident that the Pirates would be victorious.

"I told my team we have time and we are going to walk out of here with a win," said Bibbs.

In a somber press conference Coach Parsons attributed the loss to a number of things included anxiousness and poor shooting. Mostly she credited their loss to poor decision-making.

"I'm very disappointed with the outcome of today and the people that I have to rely on a consistent basis," said Parson. Parson also discussed a necessity to look more closely at what she described as "glaring deficiencies" mainly pertaining to a lack of consistency in the five or center position.

Nicole Bratwaite led the game in scoring and rebounding with 35 points and 16 rebounds. Courtney Kirk led the Lady Bison posting a double double of 23 points and 10 rebounds.

To Write for Sports,
contact Bernard or
Thomas at
(202)806-6866.

Or come to weekly
budget meetings
Tuesdays at 7pm in
The Hilltop-- West
Towers, Plaza Level.

Spartans Hold Off Bison Charge

By Terez Paylor
Contributing Writer

After Monday's loss to Hampton, Howard's men's basketball team looked to change their fortune at home on Wednesday against the Spartans of Norfolk State. However, the Spartans had a different agenda. Norfolk State overmatched an undermanned Bison squad 73-68 before a crowd of 2,303 fans.

The Bison only suited up nine players and of those nine only two, seniors Ron Williamson and Kyle Williams, were playing the guard position. Williamson played all 40 minutes of the game and led the Bison with 24 points and shot 4 for 9 three-point range. Williams, on the other hand, had a tough night. He finished with only 9 points on 3 of 10 shooting. Junior forward Seye Aluko played well scoring 20 points and added 8 rebounds in 33 minutes of action.

Howard raced out to a 10-6 lead after a fast break lay up by Aluko and proved to be their last. Norfolk's Derrick Smith quickly hit two straight threes and Nick Byrd added a third giving the Spartans a 15-10 lead. By the end of the half, Norfolk State had extended their lead to by eight, 36-28 and NSU Guard Ryan Grier contributed nicely scoring 12 of his 17 points in the first half. The Bison were able to keep close with help from Williamson who scored 10 points.

The Spartans stretched their lead to as much as 12 in the second half. Norfolk State kept the Bison at bay leading Howard 65-54 with 1:53 left to play in the game. The Bison

found a last minute surge and were able to narrow the gap. Aided by 5 straight points from Williamson, they went on a 9-1 run to cut the lead to 66-63 with 33 seconds remaining. Howard didn't get any closer due to the Spartan's clutch free throw shooting of Smith and Chakowby Hicks. They scored the last 7 Spartan points on free throws and sealed the 73-68 win. Hicks, who came off the bench, scored 16 points, grabbed 9 rebounds, and dish out 7 assists, made the difference in the game with his hustle and production in a reserve role.

Fatigue could have played a factor into the outcome of the game. Howard had a very thin backcourt and a shorter rotation; plus, they were just coming off an emotional game against a heated rival Hampton Monday. First year Norfolk State Coach Dwight Freeman commented, "Howard played hard... they were shorthanded and were missing some guys. They played Hampton Monday and played tonight against us 40 minutes. They would, you know, just get a little fatigued and tired. When they get some of those guys back... they're going to end up being a better team."

Howard coach Frankie Allen made no excuses. "We're going to have to get back to the drawing board and work a lot harder," said Allen. "It's one thing to lose, but you've got to lose giving maximum effort." Williamson echoed his coach's feelings, "We've just got to pick it up in practice and work hard."

PERSPECTIVES



Let's see now. What should I do with this piece of paper? Dentistry...Design... Nuclear Physics... Social Work...Law?

"...Dentistry...No. Medicine...No Hilltop cartoonist...Nah, some kook is doin' that already."

Straighten Up and Fly Right

Joseph Sawyer

Recently Bob Johnson the first black billionaire added another first to his list when he became majority owner of the Charlotte basketball franchise. A significant step but also one that needs to be examined. Since Chuck Cooper, Nat Clifton and Earl Lloyd became the first black players to play in the NBA during the 1950-51 season blacks have revolutionized the sport and taken it from an obscure pastime to a billion dollar industry including endless advertising avenues.

The NBA is an industry where dreams are made for black youth - an industry that encourages our black youth to forgo their education for the chance to rake in the millions that a first round pick garners - an industry where it's no longer about being best but who can make the most.

But it is also an industry that is whitewashed with power - an industry where black coaches are rare - an industry where few blacks make it to the high ranks in management - an industry where the seeds of black ownership are a just being planted after more than half a century of participation.

Regardless if Johnson can successfully bring championship basketball to Charlotte is almost as futile as debating why the last ball club moved to New Orleans

after making it to the semifinals round of the playoffs last year. Johnson is creating a legacy he can pass on, a concept that white America has 'mastered' since this country was conceived centuries ago.

Johnson has also cured himself of the nine to five I got to be super fly while just getting by diseased ideology, that many college-educated and uneducated blacks suffer from.

Johnson knows that making six figures is a small stepping-stone in the scheme of life and success.

Success in the black community has been stripped and boiled down to just getting by or not becoming a statistic. After Vietnam that response was acceptable because no one was getting by but today it's outdated.

Just ask students in passing on the Yard if they are doing what they want to do while at Howard. You would be hard pressed to find resounding yes's. Many of us go through college and life without ever following our dreams or heart.

Instead we substitute our dreams because of societal pressures or what we think is the surefire bet to six figures. If it means going through an engineering, biology or chemistry major miserable and never really understanding the concepts people have and will do it. If it means going to law school or

medical school when you rather be in culinary school or because you don't have a plan of your own people do it.

I hear it from seniors all the time who freeze like a deer in headlights when you ask them what they are going to do the day after graduation. Their problems could have been solved if they had simply listened to their conscience freshman year and are now going to be stuck in a field they dread.

But if your idea of success is simply job security after graduation then by all means go for it but know complacency and procrastination will make our generation the first college educated successful failures.

It's dismaying that for the last 300 years slavery and it's after effects are the only legacies we as a people have successfully passed on.

And for us to proclaim success black people must move, and move in one direction from being owned on a ship to ownership. And what better time than to start now with a generation of young black educated men and women.

Joseph Sawyer is a junior print journalism major from Columbia, Maryland. He can be reached at ezandy88@hotmail.com

With the new year bringing resolutions all over the city and across college campuses in America students shouldn't worry about upholding the tradition that our alumni consider a thing of the past.

Also consider this: B.E.T., M.T.V., H.B.O., U.P.N. and W.B., are about to jump on the black history bandwagon to market more positive images representative of the African-American culture.

Sure every hood, every city has assorted characters: pimps, prostitutes, soap box preachers, and door to door salesman but come what may the culture is to be handled carefully and not sold to the first P. Diddy that comes along.

You are what you watch.

Glenn Frizell is a junior broadcast journalism major from Missouri. He can be reached at Gfrizell@yahoo.com

Kwanza Television For the New Year

Glen Frizell

Five of the top ten Afrocentric television shows that did not include music videos during the holiday break also viewed by white audiences during the holiday break.

What does this mean? College students across America were home with their families watching popular programming such as CSI and Without a Trace, both CBS shows owned by Viacom and both appearing on the television ratings index as number 1 and 17 respectively in the Nielsen Ratings.

Now what does this say about B.E.T., CNBC, and WB, and other stations that were possibly logging hours from stressed shoppers and little rugrats with new toys.

Consider this: Nielsen Ratings conduct their research from a tested "diverse" marketing pool composed of a diverse audience and publishes their findings on a weekly basis.

The following information is taken from the Black Consumer Marketing Authority: During the month

of December 2002 only five shows were viewed by network programming that advertised or appealed to black and white audiences. These shows were: The Parkers and One on One.

Cedric the Entertainer and My Wife and kids also made "the list" but did not air during the week of December 23-29.

What do you watch: mammals, bucks, toms or coons?

Cable network programming provides additional insight. Five cable networks consistently viewed are Lifetime, Nickelodeon, TNT, and TBS.

The news networks fall somewhere among the bottom of the heap of Woman Entertainment/ Little Bill? Old Westerns/ Dinner and a Movie conglomerates that make up Cable Television.

Howard University was not always afforded the opportunity to have cable television and major network wiring in the dorms wasn't the great, especially wired in the dorms of Drew Hall, Bethune Annex and Meridian dormitory. It took the courageous efforts of student activists to turn the Howard Campus away from its

THE HILLTOP

The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

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Managing Editor

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Managing Editor

CASSAUNDR CUMBESS, Editorial & Perspectives Editor

The Plight of a West Coast Girl

Cassandra Cumbess

I would never downplay the wonderful experience of attending Howard University. I totally and completely appreciate the blessing of being able to attend the honorable Capstone - the Mecca of Black Academia.

However, there are days when it all just seems unbearable. No, not the stress of my course load. Not the registration woes or the ill-attitudes of many of the administrative staff members. Not the expensive Punch Out food or the lack of sufficient technology.

And not even the dorm regulations that make us all feel like children. Believe it or not, the part of the Howard experience that has me stressed out at times is plain and simple - the weather.

I'm almost positive that many of you from Chicago,

Detroit, New York, and any other northern or eastern part of the country are reading this with contorted faces, wondering what the heck is wrong with this girl who can't handle twenty degree weather, a twelve degree wind-chill factor, and a little snow.

I can't tell you how many times my peers have told me, "This is not cold!" or "This is nothing compared to how it gets in Canada."

Well, I've never been to Canada and whenever I do eventually visit it will not be in the dead of winter.

I have no interest in experiencing below-zero temperatures. That's not exactly my idea of fun. So, for now cold to me is the icy chill I experience while waiting for a shuttle bus in front of my dorm on any given January morning in D.C.

To help you better understand my plight, I will paint a

little picture for you. Five days ago I was wearing jeans, sandals, and a sleeveless top and driving around Los Angeles with all the windows rolled down.

Now imagine getting on a plane and six hours later feeling like you've been transported to an alternate universe. Going from eighty five degree weather to a world covered in white definitely takes some getting used to. But I'll be okay.

After all, it's all part of the experience. I must admit I had to laugh when my friends from home asked me what snow was like and what thirty degrees felt like.

I'll chalk it up as one more thing I have gained from attending Howard University - the ability to weather any storm.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Largest Black Collegiate Newspaper

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NEWS

Israelis, Palestinians Won't Forget Past, Don't Want Peace

ISRAEL from B1

have offered 80 percent of the territories to the Palestinians to create their own country, the plan was rejected because Israel would not recognize the "right of return" of Palestinian refugees.

Over 330,000 Palestinians left the country after war broke out in 1948. Some were chased from the country, others fled. That population of 330,000 exploded to 2 million. The right to return would allow all 2 million the right to live in the territories.

That number, added to the 3.5 million Palestinians living in the territories, would closely rival the population of the 6 million Jewish Israelis and leave the country open for attack.

It was with the failure of the talks that the most recent round of terror broke out—the Intifada—which contin-

ues today—for the most part played out through suicide bombings by Palestinians and retaliation by Israeli troops.

With each suicide bombing comes Israeli fear. That fear has led to the containment of the Palestinian people.

Today most Palestinians are not aloud to leave the territories. All must carry identification and show it at various checkpoints. There are few exceptions to the rule.

Some have characterized the treatment of the Palestinians being locked in the territories as similar to Apartheid in South Africa.

Rabbi David Rosen, who served as rabbi of the largest South African Jewish congregation, said the Israeli occupation of the territories is similar to apartheid.

"The difference between us and South Africa is that we don't want to be there occupying the territories," Rosen said. "We feel we have no choice."

While not every Palestinian is an extremist willing to kill themselves and others in an act of Jihad (holy war), the Israelis feel they cannot trust the general Palestinian population.

Each day at a checkpoint leaving the territories, a potential bomber is caught.

With each bomb that explodes and kills Israelis, there is a counter-attack.

On Sunday afternoon, the group I was traveling with spoke with Daniel Seaman, the Director of the Israel Government Press Office. There hadn't been a bombing in the eight days we had been there.

"It's great that nothing has happened," Seaman said. "But to us, that's a sure sign that something is about to happen. It's been too quiet."

Less than five hours later, the latest suicide bombing (at the time of press) took place in Tel Aviv, as we were headed to the Tel Aviv airport.

Twenty-two Israelis were killed.

The Israeli government responded by closing three Palestinian universities, increasing military presence in the territories and canceling the travel plans for top Palestinian delegates.

Hence, the cycle continues.

Throughout the trip, many of the Israelis we spoke with said they did want peace at one point but are so angry with the Palestinians that they don't care anymore.

I'm sure the same is true for the Palestinians toward the Israelis.

Yossi Klein Halevi, contributing editor for The New Republic and commentator for the Los Angeles times summed up the feeling of anger the groups have toward each other.

"If you feel threatened, you are more likely to veer to



All photos by Lauren Bayne Anderson

The Dead Sea, which touches the shores of Israel and Jordan is the lowest spot on Earth—and the most saline. The water is so dense with salt, that in it, there is no life of any type. The density of the water causes swimmers to float.



An Israeli Christian woman prays at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The church is built over the hillcock, where the Crucifixion of Jesus took place.

STAR from B2

and pinging are traps and you just end up running around in circles. It goes back to the basic element of the street, from the gutter to the glorious creator."

After his first rock band, Venus Loves A Melody, was signed and then dropped by Disney's Hollywood Records, Chesnutt started to make music by himself in his bedroom.

"I just used the bare ele-

ments: a microphone, a guitar, a drum machine, a pair of headphones and a four-track," he said. "When I was recording in my bedroom, I didn't have to worry about engineers or producers, I just thought, 'This is what I want to say now.' And then just go on to the next thing."

"It's just a flow with me, just one thing to the next. If you throw the right pieces together, it builds itself. When you're working with a four-track, you don't have that many choices, so it limits

the confusion. You have to make every track worth it."

The lo-fi aesthetic Chesnutt utilized gives the album a fresh, raw sound totally devoid of any studio gloss. Although several record labels expressed interest in the album, Chesnutt was not willing to sacrifice its bare-bones intimacy in order to make the songs more listener-friendly.

"The record companies all came with the same thing at heart," he said.

"Even if they know about music, they know what the business has taught them, which is the same old formula. They say, 'Let's re-record some of the songs.' But to change anything will kill the story. Anybody can go into a studio and get a record deal, but the idea of making it homegrown is the new inspiration. You don't have to sell yourself short now. You can do it yourself."

And that's exactly what he did. Chesnutt released

"The Headphone Masterpiece" on his own label, Ready, Set — Go! Without a large distribution deal or budget behind it, the album has slowly leaked its way to the public over the last year and a half. With positive endorsements from established artists like the Roots and Macy Gray, the album was finally officially released, albeit exclusively via Chesnutt's Web site (cody-chesnutt.com), last month.

"It's growing at a cool pace," he said of the album's

slow progress into the marketplace.

"I don't want to get caught up in things. I've seen how it can happen. I just want to watch the album take off as much as I can. I recently got an e-mail from a guy who was like, right off the bat. 'We want 20 dates in the UK.'"

"That's a blessing and all, but that would be 20 days of my life that's planned already. I just want to spend time with my family and play music. I don't want to get burned out."



Danielle Freni, General Manager of the University of Hartford's television station and Kathryn Rakoczy, Managing Editor of the Harvard University student newspaper, go through security checks at an Israeli restaurant. These checks are common in most public places.

GRAMMY from B2

song they paid to use, was never even nominated when it was released in 1983.

Jill Scott: An artist of her caliber would have already received an award, right? Wrong. At the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards, back in 2000, Jill Scott lost to Christina Aguilera in the Best New Artists category. But as far as I'm concerned, they should have named the award "Most Popular New Artist."

Milli Vanilli: Maybe Christina Aguilera winning the award for "Best New Artist" does make sense, after all in 1990 Milli Vanilli won the same award. Though the pop-dance duo was later stripped of their award (the only time the Grammy's have done such a thing) for them to even be nominated should be proof in the pudding that the 12,000 voters on the NARAS have no idea

what they're doing. If you need further proof, one of the other people going against Milli Vanilli in the same category was Tone Loc.

India.Aire: Last year's Grammy's should've been held in Florida for all the controversy they stirred. India.Aire, who was up for seven awards, lost in every single category she was nominated in. Maybe she wasn't deserving of everyone, but her debut album "Accoustic Soul," should have been given at least one nod.

As anyone can see from these incidents, the Grammy's checkered past have been the reason a Grammy sticker on any album cover is nothing more than a nifty little design that compliments the price tag. So when the Grammy's come on in February, don't even trip. Everyone you want to win will probably lose, and everyone you want to lose will probably win.

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New Staffers: Ashley, Poet and Thomas-- welcome to our team. Your burtal initiation has only just begun.

EM, Jon, Justin and the HT staff, thank you for your endless support. And let me not forget Tom & Marge.

-Derek Kindle

My New Year's resolution is to drink more and think less. I'm back to the old me with my one of a kind self... Josef

Cassandra keep your head up - Derek

Thanks Lauren for the food and wierd television programming - Josef

CONGRATULATIONS & GOOD LUCK!

Lauren Bayne Anderson
Wall Street Journal

Kerry-Ann Hamilton
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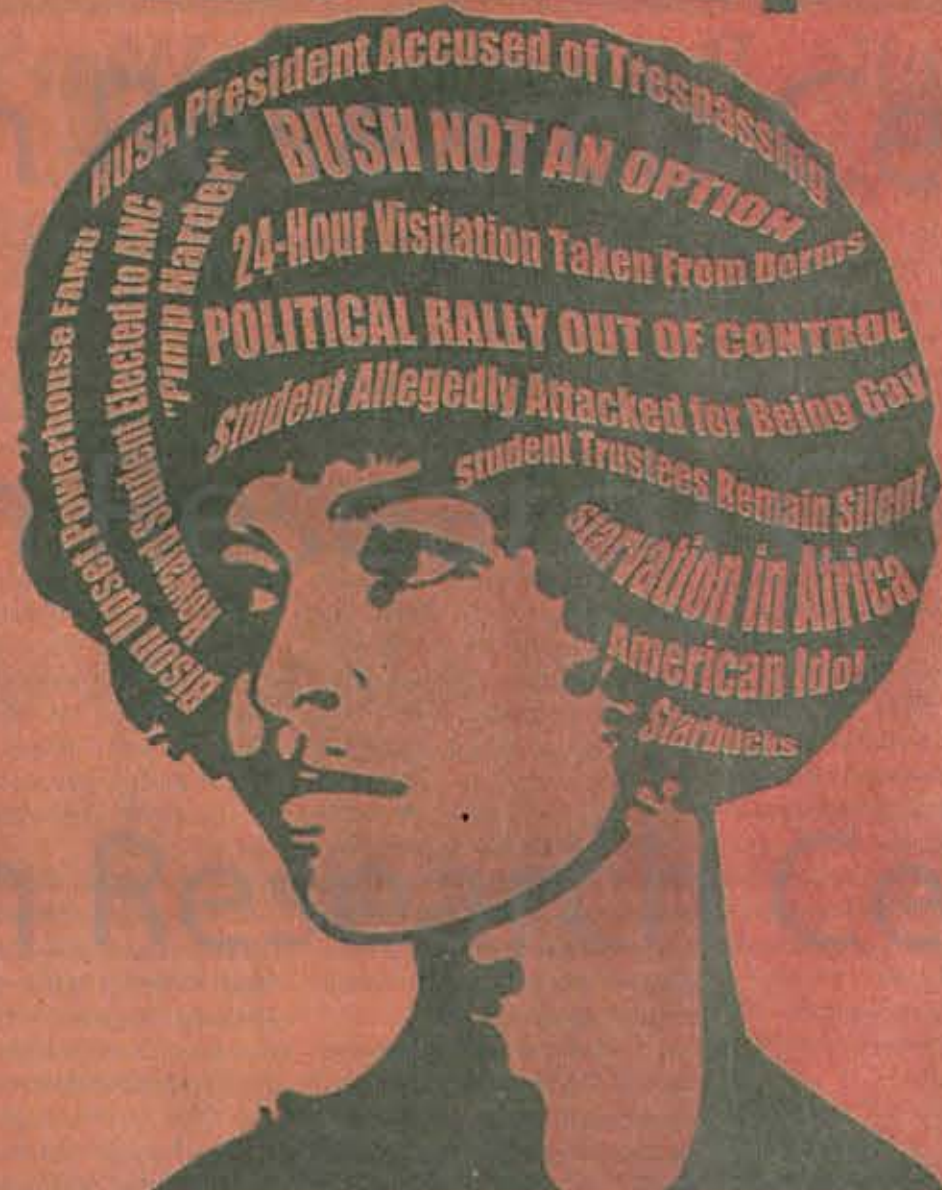
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